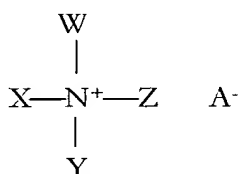


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended). A method to improve skin firmness comprising topically applying to affected skin areas a composition comprising:

(a) an effective amount of at least two acid salts formed by reacting a compound selected from the group consisting of monomethylaminoethanol, dimethylaminoethanolamine, trimethylaminoethanol, isopropanolamine, triethanolamine, isopropanoldimethylamine, isopropanoldimethylamine, ethylethanolamine, 2-butanolamine, choline and serine with a mixture of [a compound of the formula:



wherein W, X, Y and Z are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₃ alkyl group, C₂-C₄ alkanol group, wherein at least one of X, Y or Z is a C₂-C₄ alkanol group bearing at least one hydroxyl group and optionally at least one carboxyl group, and wherein A is a mixture of anionic counterions derived from] at least two pharmaceutically acceptable acids [and esters thereof]; and

(b) a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

Claim 2 (Original). A method according to claim 1, wherein said composition is applied to the face.

Claim 3 (Original). A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said acids is an alpha hydroxy acid.

Claim 4 (Original). A method according to claim 1, wherein said acids are selected from glycolic acid, citric acid, malic acid, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least two acid salts [anionic counterion is] are derived from a mixture of glycolic acid and citric acid.

Claim 6 (Original). A method according to claim 5, wherein the ratio of citric acid to glycolic acid ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:5.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least two acid salts [anionic counterion is] are derived from a mixture of glycolic acid and malic acid.

Claim 8 (Original). A method according to claim 7, wherein the ratio of malic acid to glycolic acid ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:5.

Claim 9 (Original). A method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of said composition ranges from about 4.5 to about 8.5.

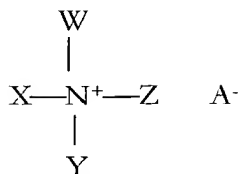
Claim 10 (Currently canceled).

Claim 11 (Original). A method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is present at from about 0.1 to about 10 % by weight.

Claim 12 (Original). A method according to claim 1, wherein said composition is incorporated into material carrier selected from a dry wipe, a wet wipe, a puff, a hydro-gel matrix, an adhesive patch, or a non-adhesive patch.

Claim 13 (Currently amended). A method to improve the appearance of facial contours comprising topically applying to [affected] skin areas affected by changes in the appearance of facial contours a composition comprising:

(a) an effective amount of at least two acid salts formed by reacting a compound selected from the group consisting of monomethylaminoethanol, dimethylaminoethanolamine, trimethylaminoethanol, isopropanolamine, triethanolamine, isopropanoldimethylamine, isopropanoldimethylamine, ethylethanolamine, 2-butanolamine, choline and serine with a mixture of [a compound of the formula:



wherein W, X, Y and Z are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₃ alkyl group, C₂-C₄ alkanol group, wherein at least one of X, Y or Z is a C₂-C₄ alkanol group bearing at least one hydroxyl group and optionally at least one carboxyl group, and wherein A is a mixture of anionic counterions derived from] at least two pharmaceutically acceptable acids [and esters thereof]; and
(b) a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

Claim 14 (Original). A method according to claim 13, wherein at least one of said acids is an alpha hydroxy acid.

Claim 15 (Original). A method according to claim 13, wherein said acids are selected from glycolic acid, citric acid, malic acid, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 13, wherein said at least two acid salts [anionic counterion is] are derived from a mixture of glycolic acid and citric acid.

Claim 17 (Original). A method according to claim 16, wherein the ratio of citric acid to glycolic acid ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:5.

Claim 18 (Currently amended). A method according to claim 13, wherein said at least two acid salts [anionic counterion is] are derived from a mixture of glycolic acid and malic acid.

Claim 19 (Original). A method according to claim 18, wherein the ratio of malic acid to glycolic acid ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:5.

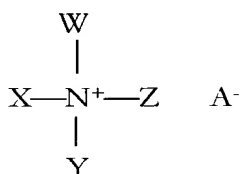
Claim 20 (Original). A method according to claim 19, wherein the pH of said composition ranges from about 5.5 to about 7.5.

Claim 21 (Currently canceled).

Claim 22 (Original). A method according to claim 13, wherein said compound is present at from about 0.1 to about 10 % by weight.

Claim 23 (Currently amended). A method for reducing the appearance of sagging skin comprising topically applying to [affected] sagging skin areas a composition comprising:

(a) an effective amount of at least two acid salts formed by reacting a compound selected from the group consisting of monomethylaminoethanol, dimethylaminoethanolamine, trimethylaminoethanol, isopropanolamine, triethanolamine, isopropanoldimethylamine, isopropanoldimethylamine, ethylethanolamine, 2-butanolamine, choline and serine with a mixture of [a compound of the formula:



wherein W, X, Y and Z are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₃ alkyl group, C₂-C₄ alkanol group, wherein at least one of X, Y or Z is a C₂-C₄ alkanol group bearing at least one hydroxyl group and optionally at least one carboxyl group, and wherein A is a mixture of anionic counterions derived from] at least two pharmaceutically acceptable acids [and esters thereof]; and a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

Applicants believe that the foregoing presents a full and complete response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment and the Office Action dated April 21, 2004. An early and favorable response to this Amendment is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that a discussion with Applicants' representative would be helpful in resolving the outstanding issues, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number provided below.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 10-0750/JBP0534USNP/EMH. If a fee is required for an Extension of time 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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